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## The Current Volume 22 : Issue 21

Nova Southeastern University

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# TheCurrent

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University • February 21, 2012 | Volume 22, Issue 21 | nsucurrent.nova.edu

## Extended Student Employment

### "Help Wanted"

#### Section

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## Why Obama is likely to win re-election

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## Meet the Sharkettes!

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# Undergraduate SGA runs out of money

Written by:

Dean Gabriel Williams

On Feb. 8, A.K. Bennett, NSU undergraduate student government association president, announced, through a press release to the student clubs and organizations of the Inter Organizations Council, that SGA has spent all of its funds for the year and will not be able to approve any more requests for funding.

Bennett said prior to January, the Office of Student Activity Fee Accounts made an accounting error, which led student government officials to believe that they had an additional \$30,000 in funding.

"What was affected was the senate's knowledge of an accurate balance in January, therefore hindering their ability to make informed decisions," said Bennett.

Greissy Amoroch, accounts manager in the Office of Student Activity Fee Accounts, confirmed that the error was made. But, Amoroch said, the error in no way

affected SGA's December 2011 funding allocations.

"[In] late January 2012, this office made a posting error when it listed some debits as credits on the SGA's winter allocations," said Amoroch. "The error was immediately noticed and corrected within a 24-hour period and SGA was notified accordingly."

Amoroch said proper training is needed to manage the senate's budget.

"The complexity of the senate's budget is highly difficult to interpret, particularly without formal training. Our records indicate that the current treasurer for SGA has not been treasurer trained. As per Student Activity Fee Policy, a treasurer is not recognized by our office until he or she completes this training," she said.



COURTESY OF CC-SD.EDU

An accounting error led SGA executives to believe they had \$30,000 more dollars in their budget than they actually had. The SGA has expended all of its funds for the year.

SEE FUNDING 2

# New residence halls and one-price dining in university's future

Written by:

Dean Gabriel Williams

On Jan. 19, at the Inter Organizations Council meeting, Brad Williams, vice president of student affairs, informed students that the university's master plan includes the replacement of Founders, Farquhar and Vettel residence halls with a new residence hall and the possibility of a one-price dining option.

Williams said the new dining option, where students would pay fixed rates per meal, is being considered because of feedback from students.

Antonella Sanchez, freshman psychology and communication



BY D. WILLIAMS

The university is considering a one-price dining option for students.



BY D. WILLIAMS

Founders, Farquhar and Vettel residence halls will be demolished to build a new residence hall that can house more students.

SEE OPTIONS 2



## OPTIONS from 1

studies double major said, "I feel that we really need more dining options because it's very easy to get tired of the food. Some of us have food preferences as it is, so it makes it even worse. We need a larger variety of healthy food."

The plan for the new residence hall, Williams said, came from university officials' decision that the space that FFV takes up can be used to build a residence hall that houses more students, and is more modern and in line with the rest of the residence halls on campus. Currently, FFV houses 150 students.

Vanissa Benjamin, junior communication studies major, said that she hopes the new residence halls will have the look and feel of a community space, much like the Commons [residence hall].

However, Benjamin expressed concern about possible construction scheduling.

"When the university does begin planning and FFV is torn down, where will the students who would have been assigned to those residence halls live? And what will administration do to ensure that construction does not disrupt the flow of student life on

campus?" she said.

Williams said a construction plan for the tearing down of FFV hasn't been created yet.

Dashka Gabriel, undergraduate SGA Inter Organizations Council senator said, the intentions to "collegify" the university are great, but that student input should be an integral aspect of the planning of any new residence halls on campus.

"Because students are the ones that will reside in the residence halls, and because residential students call the university home, student input regarding the layout of the rooms and common spaces in new residence halls is instrumental to ensure a level of efficiency and comfort," said Gabriel.

Gabriel also said she hopes that the university considers their commuter students in its plan.

"Of the 28,000 students who are 70 percent are commuter students. Emphasis should also be simultaneously placed on creating spaces on campus that cater to commuter students as well," she said.

## FUNDING from 1

Bennett acknowledged the treasurer failed to attend the mandatory trainings and SGA has now appointed a new treasurer.

"We selected a new treasurer towards the end of January, Ted Delcima. Delcima is scheduled to attend treasurer training this week."

Christina Pere, senior psychology major and president of the psychology club said it is a shame that [SGA's] funding ran out.

"While this is stressful, I feel that it may be a great opportunity however, for clubs to learn how to successfully fundraise and utilize their skills when fundraising."

Bennett said the growth in the number of student clubs and organizations on campus, which the undergraduate SGA funds, and stagnant university funding have also contributed to the quick depletion of the budget.

Sean Pepin, assistant director of Student Activities, which oversees the operation of campus clubs and organizations, said that in August 2009 there were 45 student clubs and organizations. Now, there are 92. He said, in comparison to last year, the Office of Student Activities has facilitated double the number of student events, from 42 to 81.

"Student Activities will easily break 100 student organizations by the end of this year," he said. "In terms of events, we hear a strong demand for more events at a higher quality, but with budget restrictions, we are unsure the number of events or quality will go up."

With this knowledge, Bennett said SGA has taken measures to persuade university administration to increase SGA's budget, but it has been a very slow process. SGA recently voted on a resolution to create a Student Services Fee Advisory Board, a body that will make recommendations on

the allocation of, and perform audits on, the student services fee allocation.

NSU SGAs do not have the authority to allocate their respective student services fees. University administrators allocate anywhere from \$10-14 million in student services fees, of which only 4-7 percent is allocated to PanSGA and the individual SGAs for disbursement to student clubs and organizations and to facilitate student programs.

Bennett presented the undergraduate SGA's resolution to the PanSGA on Feb. 15 for consideration.

## NSU undergraduate SGA's 2011-2012 budget

Senate Fund	\$74,357.48
Fall Budget Allocation	-\$40,379.95
Fall Bills	-\$7,182.42
Fall Sweeps	\$22,649.87
Winter Budget Allocation	-\$30,358.38
Winter Bills	-\$15,332.57
Winter Sweeps	\$0.0
<b>Total Senate Fund</b>	<b>\$3,754.03</b>

The Office of Student Activity Accounts furnished this information.

## Correction

In the Feb. 7 issue of *The Current*, in the article "Deadline approaching for 15th annual undergraduate symposium," the following facts were incorrect: (1) the symposium is in its 11th year, not its 15th. (2) Dr. Weylin Sternglanz was quoted as saying the student film director must be a Farquhar undergraduate student. However, the student film director must be an NSU undergraduate.

Submit your student club or organization's events for the Onshore calendar by emailing: [trail@nova.edu](mailto:trail@nova.edu). Only events for students, by students accepted.

## The Current

The Student-Run Newspaper of Nova Southeastern University

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# Channel 96

that's all you need to know.







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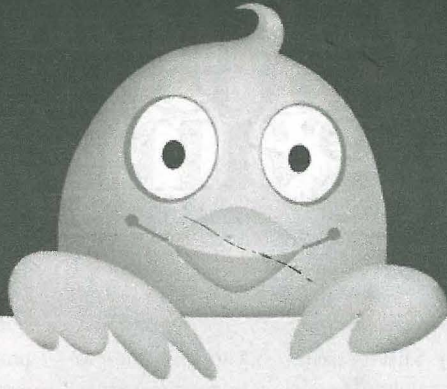
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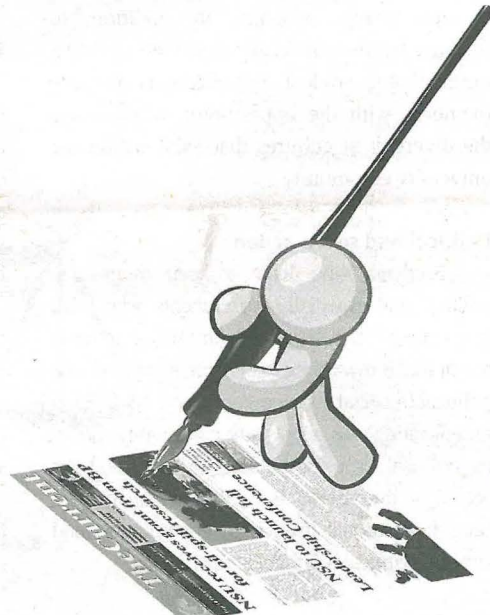


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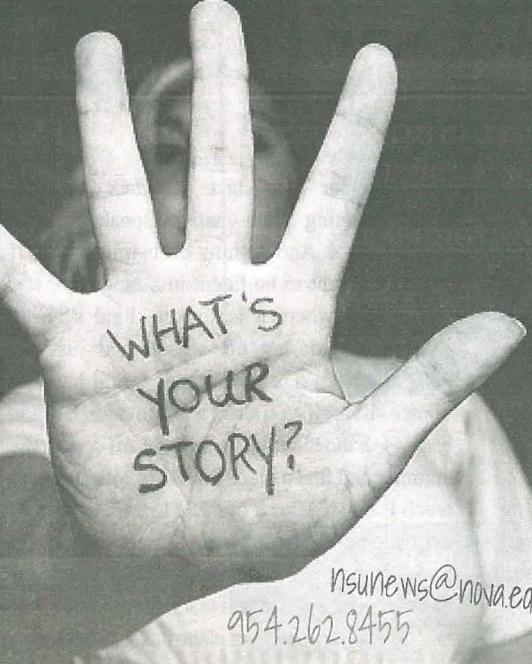
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## News Briefs

### NSU goes purple for Relay for Life

On Feb. 21, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Relay For Life at NSU will host the event Paint the Campus Purple, where students will decorate the campus in purple to honor those fighting cancer. The event will take place at various locations around campus, including: Goodwin, the Commons, Don Taft University Center, Rosenthal, Parker, DeSantis and Alvin Sherman Library. For more information on Relay for Life at NSU and the Paint the Campus Purple event contact Michelle Fernandez at [mf1003@nova.edu](mailto:mf1003@nova.edu).

### Obama makes compromise on contraception insurance debate

President Barack Obama announced a compromise on Feb. 10 in the dispute over whether full contraception insurance coverage should be offered to female employees at religiously affiliated institutions. Under the new plan, religiously affiliated universities and hospitals will not be forced to offer contraception coverage to their employees. Insurers will be required, however, to offer complete and free coverage to any woman who works at such institutions. There will be a one-year transition period for religious organizations after the policy formally takes effect on Aug. 1.

### Pop singer Whitney Houston's funeral held in New Jersey

The funeral for pop superstar Whitney Houston was held on Feb. 18 at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. The private ceremony and burial was open to invited guests only. Houston's body was flown to a New Jersey funeral home on a private plane belonging to filmmaker Tyler Perry on Feb. 13. Houston was found dead in her suite at the upscale Beverly Hilton, just hours before she was scheduled to attend a pre-Grammy bash at the hotel on Feb. 11.

### Worry over Bird Flu development

The World Health Organization held a closed meeting on Feb. 16 and 17 in Geneva to discuss new discoveries concerning H5N1, or Bird Flu. The 22 experts and scientists called to the meeting were deciding how to handle the findings of a December 2011 study that concluded that H5N1 can be mutated to result in a deadly human pandemic.

### FPL cited for violations at power plant

Florida Power and Light Co. received notice from the Nuclear Regulation Committee for violations in the maintenance of a nuclear plant in Turkey Point, two miles outside of Homestead. FPL's plant was also cited for "technical center" violations in 2010 and 2011. The NRC scheduled a meeting for next week with FPL personnel to discuss the violations. FPL stated that no employees were put under any health risk.



# NSU's student clubs and organizations

Written by:

**Dean Gabriel Williams**

Throughout the winter 2012 semester, *The Current* will feature stories on student involvement at NSU. Involvement is an important aspect of a student's life at NSU. Their college experience should be more than just attending classes and studying. Below are a list of the types of student clubs and organizations NSU offers.

## Student government associations

There are more than 20 student government associations at NSU, 14 of which are located on the main campus. Your student government is comprised of a group of students who help implement changes that students want and help organize events for students. Your student government officials also represent you on PanSGA, the central student government on which the president and vice president of each SGA sit as voting members.

## Academic and educational

Academic and educational student clubs and organizations provide students with the opportunity to expand on what is learned in the classroom in a more personal setting with other students within their major. Academic and educational student clubs and organizations also provide opportunities for students to work with instructors on research projects, attend conferences and professional development seminars and to possibly develop their own scholarly works on topics of interest.

## Arts and media

Arts and media student clubs and organizations provide students the opportunity to explore creatively. Creative development is important because it provides you with an opportunity to develop your leadership skills in an unconventional, yet unique way.

## Community service

Community service student clubs and organizations provide the opportunity to earn

not only SERVE points, but to give back to the community. These clubs and organizations instill in students a sense of compassion and an unwavering commitment to charity and philanthropy.

## Honor societies

Honor societies are, perhaps, among the most respected student clubs and organizations on any campus because students have to achieve academic success as a basis for admission. For students who have earned Dean's list distinction for several semesters, the opportunity to be a part of an Honor Society comes with the benefit of scholarships for professional and/or graduate school.

## Multicultural student organizations

Students who are interested in connecting with others who share their culture or students who wish to learn more about different cultures in a setting that is not the classroom may find that multicultural student organizations provide many benefits. In addition to forming bonds with students university-wide, multicultural student organizations provide members with the opportunity to showcase the diversity of cultures that exist within the university community.

## Political and social action

Students who have a keen interest in politics, and especially for students who wish to go into politics, become lobbyists, or activists might find it rewarding to become a member of a political or social action organization. In addition to educating the university-community about the political issues of the day, students also have access to internships at the municipal, county, state and national level with governments and non-governmental organizations.

## Pre-professional

Pre-professional organizations provide students with the opportunity to not only prepare for a career, but to network with other students interested in the same field. Pre-

professional organizations often emphasize programs that help increase academic performance and prepare students for graduate or professional school entrance examinations. They also provide the opportunity to meet with individuals who are already working in the field.

## Recreation and social activities

For the student looking for an experience that emphasizes the exploration of special interests, recreational and social activities organizations may be the perfect fit. These organizations typically provide opportunities for physical activity, which is great for students looking to supplement their workouts or for students looking to become more physically active. Students might also be surprised to find that some recreational and social activities organizations provide mental exercise, focusing on hand-eye coordination and reaction times. These, too, are important skills for anyone going into any field.

## Religious/ Non-religious

For students looking to practice their faith, NSU has more than five religious student organizations. Through membership in these organizations, students discuss the importance of faith in their lives. This category is also inclusive of individuals who either don't believe in God, religion or both.

## Social Greek Organizations

Among the oldest and most well-known types of student organizations are social Greek organizations that date back to 1839. There are four governing social Greek councils: the Inter Fraternity Council, of which all historic fraternities are members; the Panhellenic Council, of which all historic women's fraternities and sororities are members; the Multicultural Greek Council, of which all multi-ethnic fraternities and sororities are members; and the National Panhellenic Council, which consists of nine historically black fraternities and sororities. Membership in social Greek

organizations provide not only lifelong brotherhood or sisterhood through ritual, but an opportunity to work collaboratively as a group to effect change in society.

## Special interest

Special interest student organizations are those that have a vested interest in the advancement of a particular group or class of individuals in society. These organizations provide individuals with the opportunity to be in the company of like-minded individuals who seek to advance the cause of a specific sect of society on campus by facilitating programs and events that educate the university community of the plight of the respective group or class of individuals.

## Start an organization

If you realize that your interests aren't met by any organization on campus, you may establish your own. You will need to create bylaws, have a faculty advisor, and a membership of at least six students, one of whom must be the organization's president, and another the organization's treasurer. Most importantly, you will need a clear and concise objective for your organization, as this will set you apart from other organizations and set the tone for the types of programming, activities and events your organization will facilitate. With the use of OrgSync, the process of creating a student organization has been streamlined and is comparatively easier than it once was. All students have to do is submit the paperwork online. OrgSync automatically sends the organization's president, treasurer and faculty advisor an email to verify and approve the application. Once the application is approved, your organization is ready to go.

For more information on specific clubs and organizations, visit The Student Organizations Resource Center in the Rosenthal Building or go to OrgSync.com and enter keyword, "source."

# Speaking a foreign language is essential. Get started now.

Written by:

**Stephanie Fleming**

The ability to speak a foreign language is invaluable in today's society and almost necessary in today's job market. Many employers insist on bilingual applicants, especially in areas like South Florida where Spanish speakers seem to outnumber English speakers in many neighborhoods. So, what are the best ways to learn a new language?

This is a university. So, the first thing to do is sign up for a class. NSU offers a variety of language classes, such as Chinese, French and Spanish. Choose your language and get started right away. The sooner you start, the closer to fluent you'll be by the time

you graduate.

Whether you take a class or not, communicating with native speakers is a valuable tool. And nothing beats immersion. If you truly want to be fluent in a language, you have to go where it is spoken. Find a cheap plane ticket during off season and just go. You will learn quickly because you'll have no choice. Even if you only want to say: "¿Dónde está el baño?" Take a month off over the summer and find a place that hires Americans to teach English. Check out TEFLinstitute.com to help you get started. In some instances, you can make money, get a free place to stay and learn their language while you teach them yours.

If you can't afford a plane ticket or find a job overseas, this is South Florida, go spend a month

in Hialeah or Little Havana. Take advantage of our local culture and before you know it, you'll be a Spanish speaker.

Another option is to get a tutor like Julia Roberts's character in "Eat, Pray, Love." A hot Italian guy sitting across the table is inspiration enough to learn any language.

CDs can be helpful, too — more than reading a book. It is important to hear native speakers pronounce the words or you will create your own crazy pronunciations that no one will understand. Just make sure you stick with it. Since you won't receive or grade or need to eat, you'll have to keep yourself motivated.

One of the most popular — or at least most hyped about — language learning tools is Rosetta Stone. The software project creators promise



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you'll learn a new language in no time, the way you learned English as a child. But at \$749 (some are on sale right now for \$399) for a complete set of one language, it isn't very affordable. And if it truly works, I may never know. I'd rather buy the plane ticket and get a vacation out of it.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MARGUERITE BRYAN

Written by:

Alyssa Sterkel

Marguerite Bryan, associate professor at the Criminal Justice Institute, received her Ph.D. in sociology from John Hopkins University. She chose sociology because she liked the approach that the specialty offered — and she still does.

Bryan said sociology's practical approach addresses answers and gives explanations about how group membership influences individual attitudes and behavior, not just individual personality traits, like psychology focuses on. She also enjoys sociology because many areas overlap. Her interests in criminology, diversity, race and ethnicity issues, and research all intersect with each other.

"I started out looking at urban situations. When you study that, one of the areas you come across is crime in the urban communities. That's how I developed my interest in criminology. These areas are interrelated. They're not compartmentalized," she said.

In her doctoral program, Bryan focused on the urban riots of the 1960s and how they were a part of social movement that came about after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. She said crime evolved in the late '70s and early '80s because it seemed to involve more violence and was related to increased illicit drug dealing.

Bryan said, "The violence that took place then was more criminal and drug related, which



COURTESY OF NSU NEWS  
Marguerite Bryan is an associate professor at the Criminal Justice Institute.

led to a knee jerk reaction to violence. The Reagan administration felt it needed to get really tough, so they created a three-strikes-you're-out punishment policy, among other harsh penalties for offenders."

If an offender had two prior serious felony convictions, on their third offense, he or she would be given a severe sentence, such as life with a minimum of 20 or 25 years mandatory. Bryan said because of this rule, the jail and prison population expanded tremendously and

brought about a lot of collateral effects in the social system.

"More people were arrested and they had to expand the facilities, which means more money was allotted to prisons that came from education and health — just to hold more people. They're not doing better rehabilitation. They're just locking people up," she said.

Bryan said she is seeing more of a concern about these harsh penalties because you can't lock people up forever. Criminal Justice researchers are researching various methods of rehabilitation and prevention to see what works best in hopes of disseminating these findings to practitioners to educate them and implement these methods.

Technology has also changed the criminal justice field because it has improved communication. There are now federal government websites that list model programs for juveniles delinquency prevention and treatment for adults certifying that these programs are effective.

"People don't have to guess now as to which ones work. The government encourages practitioners in the community by providing funding if they use a model program," she said.

The change in technology also brought about challenges for Bryan because she had to adjust to teaching only online classes.

"Before coming here, I only taught face to face. I am trying to find out certain techniques

to make up for that lack of connection you have face to face," she said.

Though it may have been a challenge, she thinks distance education is an advantage for young people. Bryan has read studies that conclude that young people learn more, not just from the Internet, but social media in particular.

"Students are bored with the traditional way of teaching so schools are trying to incorporate more of that. They respond more to the media and students like it. Learning is so much broader than we thought. It's not just in a textbook anymore," she said.

Bryan also enjoys her online classes because she interacts with students who are in the field, like child protection services employees. Their online discussions are stimulating because her students can tell stories that happened on their job and look for ways to enhance prevention.

"My students are very interested in sharing their experiences and learning about the programs that work. They're always surprised to learn which ones work and which ones don't. The popular programs are typically the ones that don't work," she said.

Currently, Bryan and the Criminal Justice Institute are in a partnership with the Broward Sheriff's Office providing training and research evaluation for the agency to help the agency improve upon carrying out its public safety services.

## Help Wanted

*All students should contact the Office of Student Employment located on the first floor of the Horvitz building to apply for these positions (954.262.3967)*



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Provide telephone technical support to the NSU computing community. Collect and record specific information regarding user requests and problems. Dispatch problem reports to appropriate personnel.  
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Desktop Computing Assistant**  
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**Job #: 054  
Lab Monitor**  
Assist students and faculty computer related problems in the microcomputer lab.  
25 hrs/wk; \$8/hr

**Job #: 086  
Graduate Student Assistant**  
Assist coordinator with on-going projects within the department.  
15-20hrs/wk; \$11/hr

**Job #: 165  
Lifeguard**  
Prevent accidents through the enforcement of policies, rules, regulation, and the conduct of persons using the pool, saunas, and spa. Additional duties: scrub pool gutters, heavy vacuum and hosing deck.

Available: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.; \$9/hr

**Job #: 224  
Intramural Sports Official**  
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Mon-Thurs, 5:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.; occasional weekends; \$8/hr

**Job #: 307  
Orientation Assistant**  
Plan, organize and implement orientation events for students, parents. Conduct group meetings with students and parents. Prepare orientation materials such as binders and flyers. Transport orientation materials to sites as needed. Work with Student Affairs to coordinate events and activities. Other duties as assigned.  
15 hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

**Job #: 360  
Office Assistant**  
Filing, phones, copying, errands and other duties as assigned.  
20hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

**Job #: 374  
Field Operations Assistant**  
Assist the Operations Coordinator by ensuring fields and facilities are prepared for home games and events. Act as a troubleshooter at events by providing supervision. Also assist

with game management.  
20hrs/week; \$8hr/wk

**Job #: 397  
Student Ambassador**  
Conduct campus tours to prospective students and their families. Other duties include data entry. Answer incoming phone calls. Participate in special events and telecounseling.  
20hrs/wk; \$8.25/hr

**Job #: 491  
Senior Student Assistant (North Miami Beach Campus)**  
Staff the circulations desk, shelve materials, process materials, check out/in computer and A/V equipment after being trained to help set up computer software, prepare training areas, prepare first level preventative, maintain A/V equipment after being trained, assist patrons using computer.  
20 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

**Job #: 500  
Phonathon Worker**  
Call alumni from all over the country to update their information. Let our alumni know about new developments at NSU and ask for support of NSU through our annual giving program.  
10-15 hrs/wk; \$8.50/hr

**Job #: 544  
Student Assistant (East Campus)**  
Filing, alphabetizing payroll forms, keying time sheets, leave of absence reports. Putting reports in book binders, auditing payroll forms.  
25hrs/wk; \$10/hr

**Job #: 568  
Admin. Student Assistant (West Palm Beach)**  
Provide administrative support and services to the SEC recruiting staff, meeting enrollment goals and objectives. Assist in providing office coverage to front desk. Provide customer service to all callers and visitors in a professional manner.  
20-25hrs/wk; \$10/hr

**Job #: 595  
Technology Assistant**  
Editing web pages, data entry. Maintaining department web schedules. Other duties as assigned.  
\$8/hr

**Job # 629  
Student Accounting Intern**  
Accounting intern needed to assist in working on spreadsheets (Excel), journal entries, support controller and manager of taxation, preparation of schedules, creation of flowcharts. Work closely with the controller.  
20hrs/wk; \$10/hr

**Job #: 630  
Student Assistant**  
Assist customers with card related issues such as but not limited to access to parking, printing, copying, etc. Assist with event computer deployment and usage. Carry out assignments as necessary to meet service goals.  
20hrs/wk; \$8/hr

**Job #: 679  
Senior Student Assistant**  
Provide clerical support and administrative assistance to the various administrators.  
20hrs/wk; \$9/hr

**Job #: 695  
Administrative Student Assistant**  
Assist with filing, data entry, reports and other office duties. Help with special events.  
20 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

**Job #: 778  
Student Assistant**  
Receive technical hardware and software. Process the items with a barcode scanner and computer. Deliver items to various departments on- and off-campus.  
20 hrs/wk; \$9/hr

**Job #: 779  
Operations Assistant/Facilities**  
Answer telephones, manage the operation of the front service desk, answer questions, enforce facility and program policies, conduct face checks, and distribute information and directions. Maintain the cleanliness of the facility and the upkeep of the facility program space.  
\$7.50/hr

**Job #: 783  
Personal Trainer**  
Provide members with a quality, safe, and effective workout. Maintain written documentation of each client.  
20hrs/wk; \$18/hr - starting and depending on experience.



# The Sharkettes dance team jazzes up NSU's basketball halftime shows

Written by:

**Alyssa Sterkel**



COURTESY OF JOYDEL TRAIL

The Sharkettes dance team during a routine at the 2011 Homecoming Tailgate. The team also performs at NSU basketball halftime shows.

Attendance at NSU basketball games is increasing, and it's not just because of the players — it's the halftime show.

The Sharkettes, a NSU dance team, is dancing its way into fans' hearts and helping increase Shark pride.

Jennifer Goetzl, sophomore psychology major and captain of The Sharkettes, started the organization last semester from an inactive dance team. They revamped the constitution and started from scratch.

"I originally started the team because I worked at the Office of Student Activities' front desk, and there were a lot of people who came in, and there was no dance team

available to them. I wanted to fill that gap," she said.

Goetzl used to dance in Dance Movement, a dance company, and taught dance for years, but stopped when she came to NSU, until she started the team.

"It is really sad for people who have danced their entire life. All of us have a passion for dance. Even if it's not your major, it's something you want to keep up with. I feel like The Sharkettes does that for you. It's an extracurricular, but it's also a serious team," she said.

Though the Sharkettes are only a few months old, they have already been successful. Goetzl said she has seen growth in the number of people

attending games.

"I'm really excited that we're making an impact and that people are finally getting excited about basketball and our sports teams," she said.

Amanda Smith, freshman biology major, said the team's focus is not only on dancing, but also on spreading Shark pride.

She said, "Some of the other dance groups are designed for dance majors and to only learn new dance styles. We dance and have fun to help spread school spirit."

The Sharkettes perform at most basketball games during the halftime show.

Rachel Salveson, freshman chemistry major and co-captain, said they have a lot of fun and receive a great reaction from the crowd.

"It's exciting to know that people are coming out to see us, and it makes me want us to look ten times better," said Salveson.

Anyone interested in joining The Sharkettes can check out their jazz and hip-hop routines at the basketball games. Dancers can also attend their open practices every Thursday starting March 1 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the RecPlex.

Interested students can contact The Sharkettes through OrgSync. OrgSync will also show the days and times they perform.

## Player profile: Lauren Boudreau

Written by:

**Kevin Preciado**

Lauren Boudreau, junior biology major, is one of three co-captains on the rowing team, and the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She started rowing in middle school, and, at the time, she would not have predicted that she would still be rowing today.

"I had no idea [I'd still be rowing]. I couldn't understand why my parents were having me do it, because it wasn't a sport that my friends did. It was very different than anything I was used to," said Boudreau.

She soon came to love rowing, and it is something she said she is passionate about today. She said that the feeling during a race is like no other.

"I love being in the middle of a race. That's the reason that I do it," said Boudreau. "I love the second before you're about to start and everything is quiet, and you're just waiting for the announcer to say, 'go.' Then, all of a sudden there's just a ton of noise and adrenaline and everything kicks in. I love every part of it."

Not even the daily regimen



COURTESY OF NSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Junior rower, Lauren Boudreau, was a member of the team that won the conference championship last season.

of waking up at 5 a.m. for practice deters Boudreau's love for rowing.

She said the early morning practices have taught her how to time manage, and the key to staying energized throughout the day is to take a nap and eat well.

Boudreau said her family members have been the most influential people in her life, but many of the rowers she's met throughout the years have also played a big part in her growth.

"I've been in this sport for

almost ten years, and you meet all different kinds of people. There are different types of work ethics. That's also inspiring to continue on with the sport and be like some of those people or learn from those people," said Boudreau.

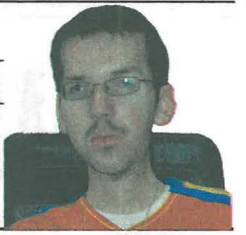
The New York native plans to go to medical school to become a doctor. Boudreau said she wants the NSU community to be more aware of the rowing team.

"I just want people to know we exist," she said.

## ON THE BENCH

Commentary by:

**Kevin Preciado**



## NSU is home to some elite athletes

It was just the other day when I asked my friend if he would be attending the NSU basketball game. Sadly, his response was one that caught me a bit off guard. Essentially, his answer was that he'd rather stay home and watch Division I basketball, because watching Division II basketball was the equivalent of watching "JV" basketball.

Oh, how far from the truth this statement is. Look, I'm not going to sit here and say that Division II athletes are at the same level as Division I athletes. However, I will say, with full confidence, that many Division II athletes are elite athletes. Speaking of elite athletes, NSU has quite a few of their own.

I don't believe people realize just how good NSU athletes are. Let me introduce you to junior swimmer, Erin Black. She has posted the fastest time in the 1,000 Free event in all of

Division II this season and the second fastest time in the 500 Free event.

Say hello to sophomore golfer, Ben Taylor. He just happens to be ranked the number one male golfer in all of Division II. Freshman golfer, Daniela Ortiz, and Junior golfer, Abbey Gittings, are the number one and number two female golfers in Division II.

Did you know that NSU had 21 All-Americans last year? Now I know we're not playing blackjack, but 21 sure is one pretty number.

Think Division II athletes can't make it to the next level? Think again. NSU alumni, J.D. Martinez and Mike Fiers are both playing Major League Baseball. NSU alumna, Sandra Changkija, recently made her LPGA Tour debut.

Still feel Division II athletics is the "JV" of the NCAA? Didn't think so.

## NSU's Biggest Loser isn't similar to the show

Written by:

**Kevin Preciado**

In the first week of January, the annual program of NSU's Biggest Loser began. The program has the same name as the television show, but that is where the similarities end.

Marcela Sandigo, associate director for Fitness and Operations, said the office is considering changing the name of the program because people think it's the same as the show. She said the show is very extreme, and that's not how the program works at NSU.

"That's actually the opposite of what we do," said Sandigo. "We don't want people to focus so much on that number on the scale and losing a really big amount of weight in a really small amount of time, because that's unhealthy. We want them to be able to get those resources and lose weight gradually, but make it into something they're going to do for the rest of their lives."

Although NSU's Biggest Loser isn't as demanding as the television show, there's a great deal the participants do every week, such as working out three times a week with a trainer and completing challenges.

"We have a relationship with the Broward Fire Academy, so they do the fireman's challenge there. We do one beach workout [and] one park workout on Saturdays," said Sandigo.

In addition to the workouts and challenges, the participants receive cooking demonstrations and prizes from Whole Foods. They have healthy lifestyle coaches and a nutritionist. Sandigo said the resources the



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF CAMPUS RECREATION  
Members of NSU's Biggest Loser participate in a fireman's challenge.

program offers is the greatest benefit.

"Yes, they lose weight, and they become healthier during the program, but it's everything they learn and they can take away. So, when they are finished they can continue on," said Sandigo.

She said entering this program is a huge commitment, and it's not for those who are just looking for a quick way to lose weight.

"The goal of the program is not to say, 'Oh, we want you to lose this amount of weight.' The goal is to give them the resources, so they can make this change forever, for the rest of their lives. This is just a little stepping stone to get them into the habit of eating well and working out regularly," she said.

The program will continue through April, and the winner will be announced the first week of June. Applications for next year's Biggest Loser program will be available in September.





## EFA ECONOMICS & FINANCE ASSOCIATION

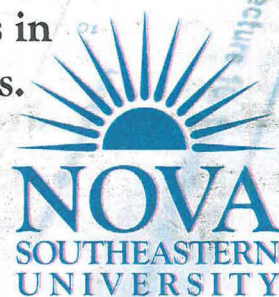
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# SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER

## National Association for Business Economics

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SUNTZU3@BELLSOUTH.NET  
Facsimile: 561-731-2674

NABE's 2400+ members range from executives interested in economics to many of the nation's foremost economists at leading Fortune 500 companies and financial institutions as well as economics faculty and students plus some governors of Federal Reserve Banks and a few Nobel laureates. Members represent some 1500 large and small businesses, governments, and nongovernment organizations. Since its founding in 1959, NABE has grown to 37 local chapters — one in Jacksonville, FL in addition to the Southeast Florida Chapter. Members receive three publications [Business Economics — a peer reviewed quarterly magazine, NABE News monthly, and a membership directory]. NABE's seven roundtables [Corporate Planning, Finance, Health Care, International, Manufacture / Industry, Regional / Utility, and Technology] provide focused professional discussion and networking opportunities. It also offers an annual convention; periodic surveys of the economy, current economic issues and member's salaries; a speaker's bureau; a consultant's registry; and training seminars. See NABE's website: [www.NABE.com](http://www.NABE.com) for additional information

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### Job Creation: What Does & Doesn't Work

JOINT MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BUSINESS ECONOMICS WITH THE ECONOMICS AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S H. WAYNE HUIZENGA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WHAT: Three Specialists with substantial experience in creating meaningful permanent jobs in different ways will open this program. Each will explain the job creation strategies that worked for them.

A panel discussion follows the individual presentations. It will deal with job creation strategies found inefficient, impractical, unaffordable or unrealistic. Charles Harrington, Lead Instructor of economics at Nova Southeastern University's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship will moderate the panel discussion.

WHEN: 24 February 2012  
8:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: KNIGHT Auditorium, Carl DeSantis Building, Nova Southeastern University's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, Fort Lauderdale / Davie

Who should attend?

Business owners / executives / planners / attorneys / accountants / actuaries / financiers / government decision makers / economists and trade association representatives of major local industries

Press representatives are welcome.

RSVP: [nsufea@huizenga.nova.edu](mailto:nsufea@huizenga.nova.edu)



# Sophie Kinsella takes us to the roaring '20s on a path full of fun and intrigue in "Twenties Girl"

Written by:

**Stephanie Fleming**

With the release of Sophie Kinsella's new novel, "I've Got Your Number," upon us, it seems only fitting to talk about her last stand-alone novel and how it fits in with Kinsella's reigning queen-of-chick-lit status.

When "Twenties Girl" heroine Lara Linton's parents force her to go to the funeral of her great-aunt, Sadie, the last thing she expects is to have a conversation with a ghost and to stop the proceedings by declaring the great-aunt she never met was murdered. The six other attendees, including Lara's parents, sister, uncle Bill, aunt Trudy and cousin Diamante, are extremely agitated by this claim and anxious to get the funeral over with so they can resume their lives. What they don't know is that Lara and Sadie's ghostly meeting that day will change all of their lives forever.

Lara's life is in shambles when she meets Sadie's ghost. Her business partner and best friend, Natalie, deserted her to live with a man she met while on vacation in Goa and her long-term boyfriend, Josh, just ended their relationship with no explanation. Meanwhile, Lara must pretend to be fine to keep her parents

from discovering just how bad her life is and her sister from gloating over being the better sibling.

Sophie Kinsella, creator of the lovable "Confessions of a Shopaholic" heroine, Rebecca Bloomwood, is no stranger to complex and captivating characters. "Twenties Girl's," Lara, is yet another of these intriguing characters, as are the others she encounters on her adventure, most of whom are missing something in their lives.

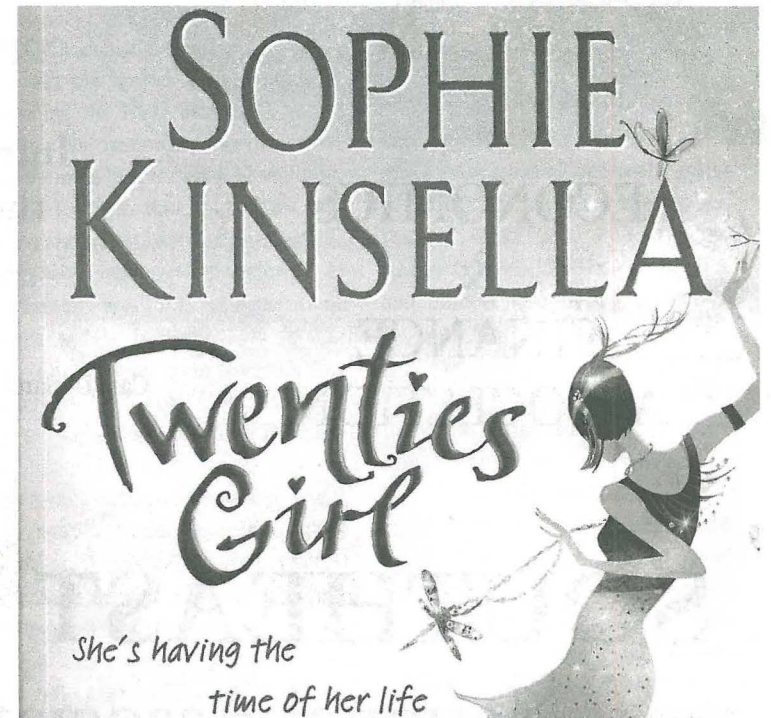
Kinsella has hit gold once again with this latest novel which combines the struggles of Lara and Sadie with a history of 1920s culture and a tour of London's most notable landmarks. Sadie appears as a 23 year old girl even though she was 105 when she died, causing her to be stuck in a 1920s frame of mind. She is especially preoccupied with the clothing of the period which she makes Lara wear on a blind date that Sadie convinces her to go on.

Lara goes along with it, unable to deny her great-aunt a last wish, and helps Sadie search for the lost necklace. Because no one else can see or hear Sadie, Lara finds herself in some awkward and comical situations like the time Sadie disappears on a bridge and Lara screams for her causing passersby to

think someone has jumped.

At times, Lara is just a little too naïve to be believable, like when she convinces herself that Josh is just laid back because he shows no interest in her or her concerns over the failing business. And it takes her far too long to realize that she is attracted to the blind date guy, Ed, who bears a striking resemblance to the love interest of the main characters in Kinsella's "Can You Keep a Secret?" and "Remember Me?" Also, the heroines in each think they are in love with an obviously wrong-for-them man when this dark-haired, frowning stranger appears in their lives.

Regardless of the similarities, Lara and Ed's path to romance is unique and filled with funny, heartwarming moments and some very unusual obstacles, such as Sadie's crush on Ed. Lara and Sadie's road to friendship and understanding is a bumpy one but one that is definitely worth the ride. Each character is able to learn something valuable from the curious situations brought about by the secrets behind the lost necklace and a famous artist who may know more about Sadie than anyone ever imagined. When the secrets are revealed, thanks to Lara's relentless determination, no one will ever be the same.



Sophie Kinsella's "Twenties Girl" will take you on a tour of 1920s culture and London's most notable landmarks.

Sophie Kinsella, which is a pen name, first revealed after the release of the aforementioned "Can You Keep a Secret?" for author Madeleine Wickham, never disappoints when she puts pen to paper to create a new story. Her humor is sharp and witty and her characters draw you in and make you hope for them as they search for the thing that is missing

from their lives. Her writing style is precise and so easy to follow that it's possible to get lost in it for hours at a time. My only complaint is that "Twenties Girl" isn't longer than its 435 pages. Fortunately, though, Kinsella's new book "I've Got Your Number" was released last week and is waiting for me on my Kindle.

## For better and for worse—the meaning behind "The Vow"

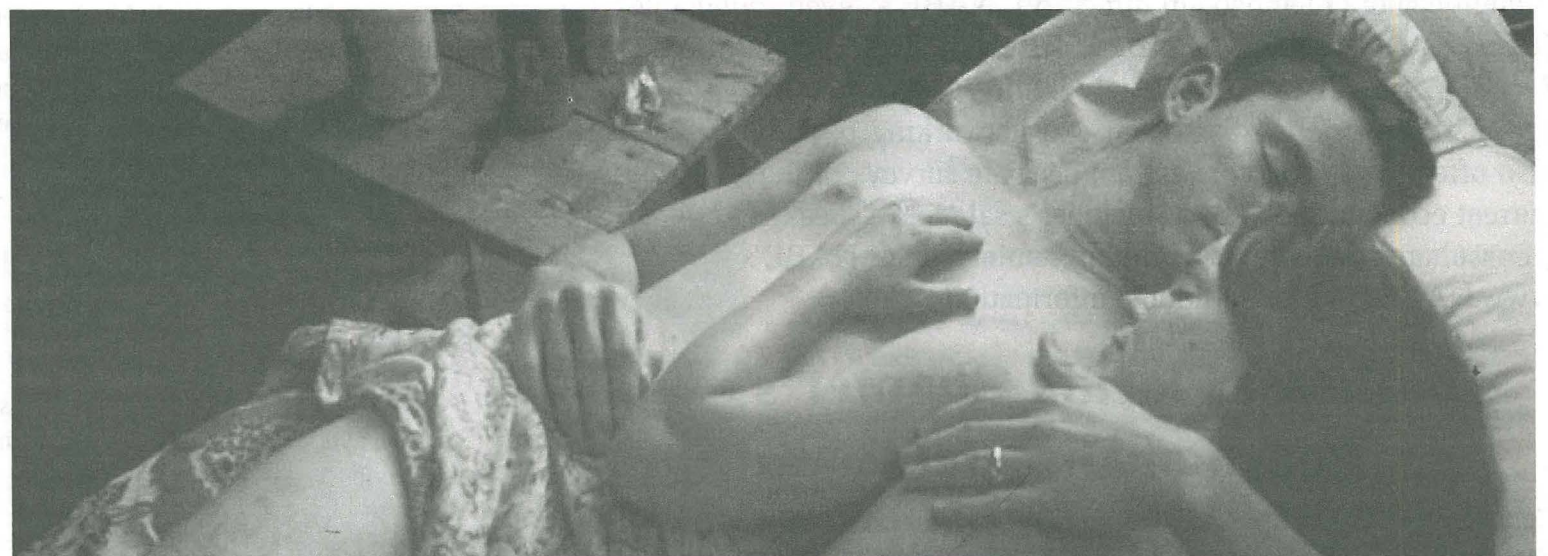
Written by:

**Alyssa Sterkel**

What would you do if your spouse didn't remember you? How far would you go to fight for your love? When would you realize you needed to let them go? "The Vow" answers these questions.

"The Vow" begins with Paige (Rachel McAdams) and Leo (Channing Tatum) leaving a movie theater and driving home. It's a quick snap shot of their everyday life, before a truck rear ends their car and Paige flies through the windshield. Paige suffered brain damage and amnesia. She lost the past four years of her life, and, consequently, any memory of Leo. The movie follows them on their journey of loss, as Leo fights for his wife and waits for her to remember him.

"The Vow" was inspired by a true story and that hint of realism made the plot so unique. I realize McAdams' character fell in love with a "poor guy" that her rich family doesn't approve of (hint: "The Notebook"), but the movie asked tough questions about love. How would you react if the person you vowed to be with for the rest of your life interacted with you like you were a stranger? The movie addresses the age-old vows: for better, for worse, for



How could anyone forget Leo (Channing Tatum)? Somehow, Paige (Rachel McAdams) did.

richer, for poorer, in sickness, in health, to love and to cherish 'till death do us part. Leo, and the man the movie was inspired by, took those vows seriously. He stood by his wife even when she mentally wasn't his wife.

There are many people who think Tatum is the male version of Kristin Stewart (because he can only show one emotion), but in this film he played the heart broken husband very well. I know this because I constantly felt frustrated for him during the movie. Leo's love and adoration for his wife was so obvious that it hurt me when she freaked out

after he tickled her (something he did before the accident to help her relax). All I wanted was for Paige to remember her vows to Leo, her life with Leo and her love for Leo.

McAdams, as always, was wonderful to watch, especially because she took on two roles: her life before the accident and her life after. McAdams played the girl who was hopelessly in love with her husband and the girl who didn't know her husband at all. For most of the movie, she was trying to figure out who she was. McAdams embraced the emotional toll amnesia would

bring to a person. Because Leo and her life with him was like reading someone else's diary, Paige was overwhelmed, scared and confused. She couldn't embrace her married life with open arms, and McAdams made that struggle apparent. She wanted to love like Leo loved her, but she had forgotten how.

This movie, like most in its category, will never be up for an Academy Award. It won't be acknowledged for its acting, script or soundtrack. It's advertised to girls who like cheesy, romantic dramas. However, this movie is so much

more than entertainment. It asks couples: to what lengths they would go to save their relationship, how much they love the person they're with, and (for married couples) how true were their vows.

The situation that happened in "The Vow" between this husband and wife is unimaginable. They had to answer how serious they were about their commitment to each other. I can't tell you if their love beat all odds, but I can tell you, the film answers this question.



# Academy Awards nominations and predictions

Written by:  
**Saily Regueiro**

With the 84th annual Academy Awards just a few weeks away, there is a lot of speculation about who will take home the Oscar. This year the competition seems to be more fierce than ever with some new comers going head to head against acting elites, and, for the first time in 83 years, a silent movie has been nominated for Best Picture. Here is a full list of nominations and Oscar predictions.

**Best actor**

The lead actor race has become one of the most intriguing to watch. George Clooney seemed to be the top choice for his revered performance as a devastated dad with an unfaithful comatose wife in “The Descendents.” That was until “The Artist” star Jean Dujardin pulled off the win at the Screen Actors Guild. Even though this role is considered to be a career best for Clooney, and earned him a Golden Globe, there is still a good chance that the first-time nominee, Dujardin, may come out on top.

**Nominees:**

- Demian Bichir, “A Better Life”
- George Clooney, “The Descendants”
- Jean Dujardin, “The Artist”
- Gary Oldman, “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy”
- Brad Pitt, “Moneyball”

Predicted winner: George Clooney  
Potential winner: Jean Dujardin

**Best actress**

This one is another tough call with all the amazing actresses nominated this year. In one corner you have Viola Davis, who is a true Hollywood success story, nominated for her outstanding portrayal as Aibileen Clark in “The Help.” In the other corner is the Academy Queen herself Meryl Streep, who is nominated for a record seventeenth time for her spot-on performance as former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, in “The Iron



“The Artist” is the predicted winner of the best picture award, and the star Jean Dujardin is a nominee and potential winner of the best actor award.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PJENSI.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM

Lady.” With Streep winning the Golden Globe, and Davis already taking home the Screen Actors Guild – let’s see which one of these ladies packs the final punch.

**Nominees:**

- Glenn Close, “Albert Nobbs”
- Viola Davis, “The Help”
- Rooney Mara, “The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo”
- Meryl Streep, “The Iron Lady”
- Michelle Williams, “My Week With Marilyn”

Predicted winner: Meryl Streep  
Potential winner: Viola Davis

**Best supporting actor**

The list of nominees for best supporting actor is filled with a diverse group of men. Jonah Hill, who is best known for his comedic performances, has now proven that he can also be a credible dramatic actor. He snags his first nomination for his role in “Moneyball.” Nick Nolte also proves to be one of the best as a recovering alcoholic pushing his sons to be mixed martial arts fighters in “Warrior.” But the real story in this

category is Christopher Plummer for his role in “Beginners.” Plummer has so far won both the Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild for that role and is said to be going into the Academy Awards as the top choice.

**Nominations:**

- Kenneth Branagh, “My Week With Marilyn”
- Jonah Hill, “Moneyball”
- Nick Nolte, “Warrior”
- Christopher Plummer, “Beginners”
- Max Von Sydow, “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close”

Predicted winner: Christopher Plummer  
Potential winner: Nick Nolte

**Best supporting actress**

The women nominated in this category are some of the true greats with their comedic genius and dramatic excellence. Melissa McCarthy showed that there is no limit to what funny is with her role in “Bridesmaids.” I am still cringing over the sink scene in the bridal store. Bérénice Bejo for the “The Artist” and Jessica Chastain for “The Help” are two competitors

worth mentioning, but this year it is all about Octavia Spencer. Octavia Spencer from “The Help” has single handedly mopped the floor with the competition throughout this award season, taking home the Golden Globe, Critics Choice and Screen Actors Guild. It is safe to say that Octavia Spencer better have her acceptance speech ready.

**Nominations:**

- Bérénice Bejo, “The Artist”
- Jessica Chastain, “The Help”
- Melissa McCarthy, “Bridesmaids”
- Janet McTeer, “Albert Nobbs”
- Octavia Spencer, “The Help”

Predicted winner: Octavia Spencer  
Potential winner: Melissa Mearthy

**Best picture**

This year there are nine movies vying for the prize of Best Picture and all of them are well deserved. Three of the nominees have already made quite an impact throughout this award season. “The Decedents” seems to be the smart choice, and it won the Golden Globe. “The Artist,” a black

and white silent film, was not so silent when it took the Critics Choice Award and it was “The Help” that surprised everyone by winning the Screen Actors Guild Award for best cast in a motion Picture. Each of these movies has introduced the importance and amazing work of film making, but only one can take home the Oscar.

**Nominations:**

- “The Artist”
- “The Descendants”
- “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close”
- “The Help”
- “Hugo”
- “Midnight in Paris”
- “Moneyball”
- “The Tree of Life”
- “War Horse”

Predicted winner: “The Artist”  
Potential winner: “The Descendants” or “The Help”

So, tune in when Billy Crystal hosts the 84th Annual Academy Awards on Feb. 26 to see if your favorites take home the Oscar.

## off is more

February 21-February 27

**Tuesday 2.21**

- Barry Gibb Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, 8 p.m.
- Miami Heat v. Sacramento Kings American Airlines Arena, Miami, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday 2.22**

- Andy Grammer Culture Room, Fort Lauderdale, 7 p.m.

**Thursday 2.23**

- Diana Ross Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, 8 p.m.
- Miami Heat v. New York Knicks American Airlines Arena, Miami, 7:30 p.m.
- Florida Panthers v. Minnesota Wild Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 7:30 p.m.
- The Saw Doctors Revolution Live, Fort Lauderdale, 7 p.m.



**Friday 2.24**

- Doobie Brothers Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, 8 p.m.
- An Evening With UFO Revolution Live, Fort Lauderdale, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday 2.25**

- Cody Simpson Revolution Live, Fort Lauderdale, 7 p.m.



**Sunday 2.26**

- Florida Panthers v. Montreal Canadiens Bank Atlantic Center, Sunrise, 5 p.m.
- “Sew In Love” Indie Craft Bazaar Revolution Live, Fort Lauderdale, 12 noon.



**Monday 2.27**

- Dick Fox’s Golden Boys Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, 8 p.m.
- Radiohead American Airlines Arena, Miami, 7:30 p.m.

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# Political history says Obama should win a second term

Written by:

Dean Gabriel Williams

An issue of "The New Yorker" released on Feb. 6 features President Barack Obama enjoying what appears to be a football game on TV. The image on the television screen, however, displays GOP presidential hopefuls Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney battling it out for the nomination.

There is a certain air of entitlement and (sometimes) accomplishment that an incumbent enjoys. And while Republicans (and disappointed Democrats) may cringe at the thought, President Obama — statistically speaking — stands a good chance of being re-elected to serve a second term as president of the United States.

An April 4, 2011 article in the "Washington Examiner" reported that only five of 19 presidents who have sought re-election since 1900 have lost. Most surprising, is the fact that only one incumbent, Democrat president (Jimmy Carter — 1980), has lost his campaign for re-election. The remaining four incumbent presidents were Republicans: George H.W. Bush, 1992; Gerald Ford, 1976; Herbert Hoover, 1932; and William

Taft, 1912.

I believe that President Obama hasn't done anything significant since taking office three years ago. The mantras of "change," "hope," and "Yes we can," which then seemed like plausible solutions, have now come to reveal themselves as nothing more than empty phrases used on the campaign stump in an effort to distract voters from what was blatantly obvious: Obama was a community organizer, a law school professor, and a freshman senator, but wasn't, isn't, and will never be prepared to govern and solve the real problems of the United States.

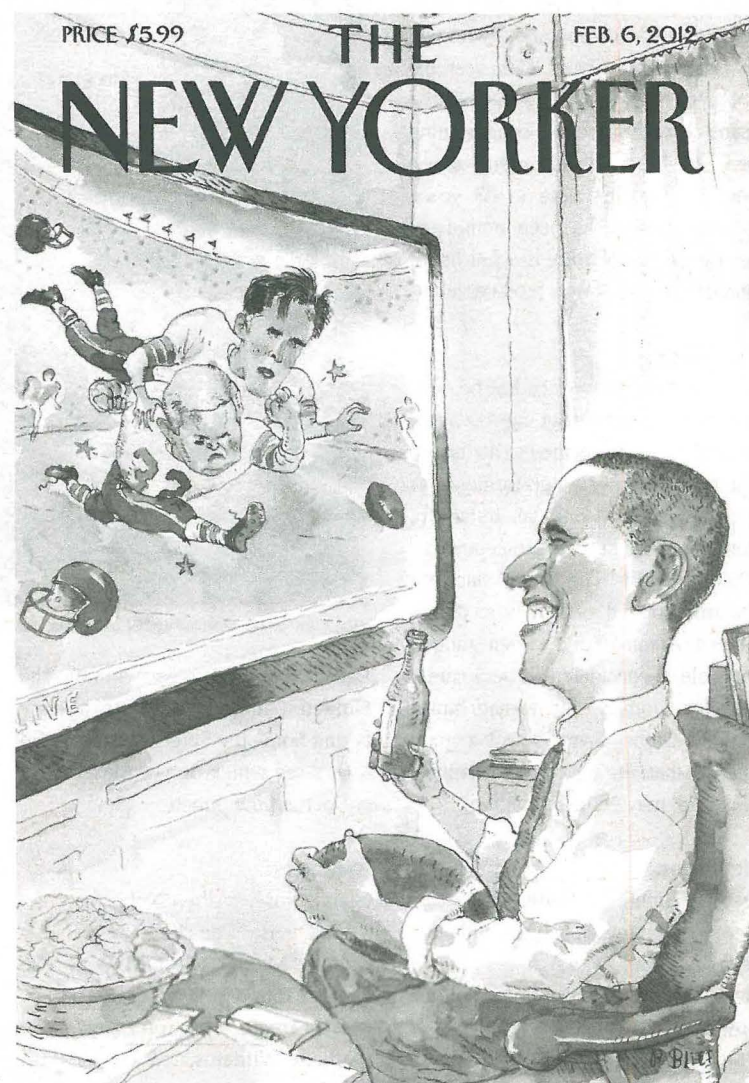
Despite my opinion, there are several factors that stand to benefit Obama. First, there is Health Care Reform. While it is perhaps the most ineffective and controversial article of legislation that has ever been signed by a U.S. president, the fact that the U.S. Congress actually passed the Health Care Reform Act and the president signed it is quite an accomplishment. Second, while the national debt is the highest it's ever been, Obama has proposed many solutions for balancing the budget.

Third, unemployment figures,

have been decreasing steadily. While the jobs created are in customer service and pay no more than \$1,920 per month (\$12/hour) before taxes, there are nonetheless jobs opportunities for those who are willing to go back to the bottom of totem pole and work their way back up.

Fourth, and most importantly, a vast majority of minorities in America vote Democrat, regardless of the issues, as they believe that a vote for Republican is a vote for social and economic inequality.

While I hate to admit it, these are all valid reasons as to why President Obama will perhaps be re-elected in November. Unless the Republicans choose a candidate that the base, the broader Republican Party, independents, and those Democrats who are disappointed in President Obama's less than stellar performance, will rally around, raise funding for, and will be excited to talk to others about, no Republican nominee will defeat the incumbency machine that is President Obama.



The Feb. 6 cover of the New Yorker features Obama taking pleasure in the competitive GOP nomination process. COURTESY OF THE NEW YORKER



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Alexia Georgakopoulos, Ph. D. Trainer recently spoke and appeared on NBC's Today Show. She is a Professor of graduate students in the Department of Conflict Resolution & Analysis at Nova Southeastern University.

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# TLC is not TV

Written by:  
**Davis Yahn**

TLC used to be called "The Learning Channel," good thing they changed it because there is very little learning going on.

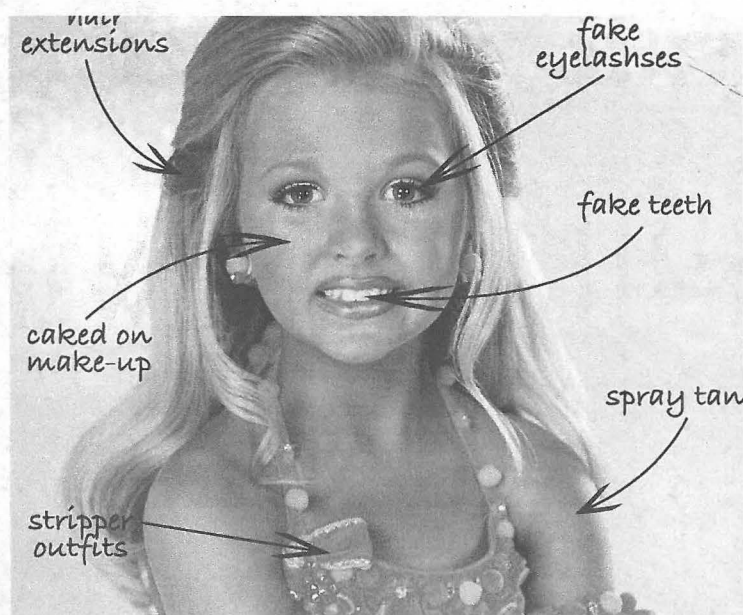
The programming, since the switch, has become more family friendly, replacing their slogan "a place for learning minds" with "life surprises." The only surprise you will find on this network is someone actually acting normally.

There is definitely plenty to watch in the 21st Century but most of it is garbage. With football season over, people are waking up to the fact that almost everything on TV is just plain stupid. A great example of this mindless TV fad is the History Channel — not a whole lot of history going on there. More like "Hey, watch these rednecks shoot gators in the face." Or "Hey, watch these Oregonian rednecks chop down huge trees."

These shows ("Swamp People" and "Ax Men" — in case you didn't know) do highlight an interesting positive aspect of this inane TV fad: They are addictive to watch. The History Channel has a few of these types of shows, but, according to my girlfriend, it seems TLC takes the cake (literally, there are three different shows about baked confections) when it comes to stupid TV.

If you're near your TV, turn it to TLC right now. Brace yourself if you do because there are 28 shows on TLC and about half of them will turn your brain into mush.

Let's start with "My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding." Where to begin? How about the description from TLC: "A visually arresting portrait of the secretive, extravagant and surprising world of gypsies in Britain today." My God! How torturous! I would guesstimate that watching this show



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It isn't easy to be a kid in the world of TLC.

is akin to getting shocked, repeatedly.

Britain has a group of people who, as far as I can tell, don't care for so-called gypsies. I don't know what these people did to deserve such disrespect but I'm sure it must have had something to do with these over-the-top secret weddings. My theory is that the people of England have seen enough and have been resorting to excommunication to keep these marriage-happy-fashion-disasters out of sight. And that is exactly what you should do if you ever happen to see this show on TV, look away — quickly.

If you thought a showcase of British culture was bad enough, you might want to prepare yourself for this: "Toddlers and Tiaras."

I am so embarrassed by this show, mostly for these kids, but also for America. George Carlin would turn in his grave if he saw this level of child worship. Parents withholding and rewarding kids with food? Well, that's wrong. Children taken out of school for a beauty pageant? That's just bad. Five-year-old Isabelle calling

out her 3-year-old competitor for wearing a "hooker costume?" I don't want to live on this planet anymore. Seeing bad parenting in public is bad enough but a montage of it is enough to make me want to keel over and die. I highly advise you to avoid this show at all costs.

The problem with all these spotlights of American culture is that there is a "can't-look-away factor" that keeps you coming back for more. It is like watching a train wreck, you can't look away. But this train wreck is full of ugly clothes, obsessive behavior and one-liners that will put the palm of your hand to your face.

There are some shows that won't make you want to set the cast on fire. I am talking about "What not to wear" and "Extreme Couponing." But still, even those two can, at times, make your skin crawl.

So consider this your warning. Stop watching TLC. Think about how future generations (if they make it) will look back on these shows. It won't be pretty.

# Gas is great but diesel is better

Written by:  
**Davis Yahn**



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Hybrids aren't the only high efficiency machines on the road. Diesel cars, like this Volkswagen Jetta, offers a great alternative.

Take a look around the parking lots at NSU. A wide variety of vehicles are parked on this fine campus, many as unique as the very people who drive them. You'll spot clean Lexus sedans, sophisticated Japanese coupes and even a Maserati if you look hard enough. But one group of cars really stands out for a different attributes other than style or speed — the diesels.

Hybrids are all the rage today. With more than 2.8 million hybrids on the road, you, or someone you know, likely drive one. They are really popular for a variety of reasons but, for the most part, for their ability to get over 25 mpg, even when they are speeding down the HOV at 90 mph. So, it would seem that there really isn't much of a market left for diesel power anymore, but I am here to tell you that you're wrong.

You can't really blame the hybrid fad. Before they existed it, there were just diesels and small engines that could produce the similar miles per gallon of a hybrid. But diesels of yesterday were considered noisy, dirty and inconvenient so, like an endangered animal, they started to disappear.

Some of that same stigma is still prevalent in American consumers' minds, and many pass up diesels for the same obsolete assumption of the past.

Remove those notions from your mind immediately. Good. Now that we have a blank slate, go test drive a diesel. Actually, let me save you the trip. Diesels are not like they used to be. It may take a little getting used to but things have changed.

Unlike their predecessors, diesel engines today are mostly turbocharged and use advanced technologies and emission controls that, in some cases, make them more eco-friendly than hybrids, meaning that they are far less dirty than they used to be. Yet some states actually prohibit the sale of diesels today. This type of archaic thinking needs to be replaced by the forward ideals our generation is becoming used to.

It is great to see that those ideals have made it to NSU. I applaud the diesel drivers and their thrifty, flashy cars. I think now that Americans are starting to recognize alternatives to gasoline. Some are starting to forget that there are other options to hybrids.

## On the Scene: "What do you wish your Shark Card could do for you?"

"I wish it could get me tickets to a concert or school games and discounts on books. I wish I could use it like a credit card and get points, which could be used, for example, to get discounts on books." **Wallace Jean, senior theatre major**

"I wish I could use it to donate money like you would with a credit card because I don't carry money on me." **Alan Nguyn, sophomore biology major**

"I wish I could use my Shark Card at the vending machines. That would be cool. I also wish that we could update it every year for free. I'd like to have a new picture on mine." **Phillip Williams, junior communication studies major**

"I wish it was more oriented for commuters rather than residential students. I think we need a \$100 balance to spend here. I also wish we could use the Shark Card at more locations to get a discount." **Rachel Deforge, freshman legal studies major**

"It's great that you can load money on it and use it all over campus, at the gym and [at the] garage. I like it. It does just about everything I need it to do. I wish there was an app for my phone that would let me check its balance whenever I wanted" **Michael Matus, sophomore criminal justice major**

"I wish I could buy event tickets with [the Shark Card]. I would go to more games. It would be great too, if it could be used everywhere instead of just on campus." **Mudasar Mirza, freshman biology major**



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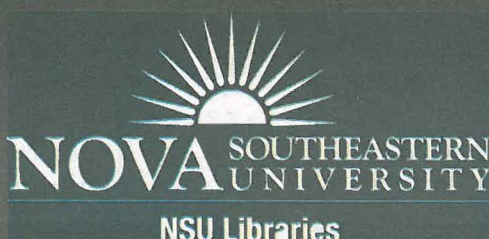
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